MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No. This is what the circular says.

"Collection and supply of materials should "as a rule be done by contractors on agreements duly executed by them."

What portion should be done by departmental agency is also stated in the circular.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): But the answer says that the actual work should be done by the department. My question is whether the work directed to be done departmentally according to the circular cannot at all be given to contractors.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The circular has to be observed so far as it goes. It says what should be done by the departmental agency and what may be done by contractors.

Grant of P. W. D. Contracts for Road-making to local Contractors.

102. **MR. T. J. MATTHEW** (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the inhabitants of the localities traversed by the ryots' roads and other new roads are very anxious to see that these roads are really improved and well maintained?

(*b*) Will not such persons, if they are given the contracts for improving or maintaining such roads, take greater interest in the work than strangers and turn out the maximum amount of work that can be expected with the amount allotted?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the Chief Engineer to give the contracts for the maintenance and improvement of ryots' roads and other new roads to persons of the localities through which these roads pass?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes; naturally.

(*b*) Much will depend upon the persons who come forward to take up and are entrusted with such works.

(*c*) Contracts for the maintenance of minor roads will be given to such persons as apply to the Executive Engineer and will conform to the rules and practice of the department. In fact the Chief Engineer has already issued instructions in this direction to the Executive Engineers in December 1922.

Bridge across the Minachil River on the Lalam-Ponkunnam Road.

103. **MR. K. I. JOSEPH** (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how long have the people of Minachil been making representations for the construction of a bridge across the Minachil river on the Lalam-Ponkunnam road;

(*b*) when Government sanction was given for its construction;

(*c*) how much money has been sanctioned for the purpose and in which years the money was sanctioned;

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